

April 25, 2005
Case No. GP-302957 (2750/30)
Serial No. 10/601,467
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-- REMARKS --

A. Claims 1-7 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over APA in view of Cook.

The rejection of claims 1-7 and 10 as unpatentable is traversed.

First, Cook fails to disclose, teach or suggest a "mapping board box including a plurality of pin receptors in electronic communication with the at least one harness port." The Examiner attempts to liken the "holes of 501" to the claimed pin receptors." However, those of ordinary skill in the art readily recognize the difference between a 'hole' and a pin receptor *in electronic communication with* at least one harness port. The Examiner correctly fails to explain how a 'hole' can be in electronic communication with anything, much less a harness port.

Additionally, there can be no motivation to combine, and further, no reasonable expectation of success for such a combination as alleged by the Examiner. The Examiner attempts to liken the claimed "mapping board box" with structures 500 and 501 from FIG. 1 of Cook. However, modifying the reference as suggested by the Examiner would destroy the principle of operation of the reference, unequivocally against the strictures of §103(a).

In order to operate, Cook relies on a vacuum actuated test fixture. A fixture base 500 is described as a "first assembly" and the support assembly 501 is described as a "second assembly". See, Cook, column 3, lines 59-66. Operation relies on first seal 102, second seal 109 and third seal 104. Cook, column 4, lines 11-13. Furthermore, operation of Cook is premised on a vacuum generated by a manifold 108 that removes air from the vacuum chamber of the plate assembly 101. Cook, column 4, lines 34-49. Furthermore, Cook teaches the necessity of the vacuum by teaching that the "plate assembly 101 must be structurally rigid to support the circuit card and the bending forces caused when the vacuum is applied." Cook, column 4, lines 50-52. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art could not have a reasonable expectation of success by removing the vacuum system to arrive at the Examiner's proposed modification. See, e.g. MPEP §2143.02.

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Furthermore, by teaching that the "plate assembly 101 must be structurally rigid to support the circuit card and the bending forces caused when the vacuum is applied," Cook unequivocally teaches away from the claimed limitations.

Therefore, claims 1, and 2-7 are patentable over the references.

Withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection is requested.

B. Claims 8-9 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Cook.

The 102(b) rejections of claims 8, 9 and 11 are traversed. Cook does not disclose a mapping board box, as claimed in claims 8, 9 and 11, and therefore this rejection must fall.

The differences between the claimed mapping board box, and the combination of the support assembly 501 and fixture base 500 are outlined above.

Claim 11 requires "means for receiving a circuit board." As claim 11 is a §112 paragraph 6 claim, Applicants are entitled to the broadest reasonable interpretation of the claim in light of the specification. Because the specification describes the "means for receiving a circuit board" as a "mapping board box," Cook can not disclose the claimed "means for receiving a circuit board."

Because Cook does not disclose a "mapping board box" as claimed in claims 8-9, and 11, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejections to claims 8-9 and 11.

C. New claim 12 is patentable over the prior art because the prior art alone or in combination fails to disclose, teach or suggest each and every element of the claim.

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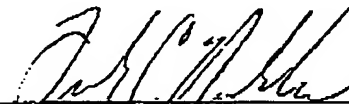
CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-12 fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §§102, 103 and 112. In view of the foregoing, early passage to issue of the present application is respectfully requested.

Dated: **APRIL 25, 2005**

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